

FELLOW NEWS

News for and about the Coastal Management Fellows

Issue Sixteen

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FOCUS ON FELLOWS: FRANK LOPEZ 2001-2003

Although always aware of the environment around him while growing up in a largely agricultural area of the Texas panhandle, it might seem surprising that Frank Lopez developed an interest in coastal issues despite living hundreds of miles from the nearest coast. The journey that led him to develop these interests had many diverse stops along the way.

Frank served in the U.S. Navy as a journalist for four years and then worked as a producer and director for a local television station in Amarillo, Texas. Following that experience, he decided to attend West Texas A & M to study public administration. Frank developed an interest in planning during an undergraduate internship with the Amarillo Planning Office. Upon completion of his bachelor's degree, he decided to further pursue this interest and seek a Master of Regional



Frank Lopez, checking the trash rack of a detention pond control structure for clogs and leaks during a field inspection.

Planning degree from the University of North Carolina.

While at UNC, Frank worked for Professor David Brower as a research assistant with the North Carolina Hazard Mitigation Planning Initiative, which provided planning assistance to communities in the wake of Hurricanes Fran and Floyd. Frank describes Professor Brower as highly involved in coastal zone management and credits him with igniting his interest in coastal issues. It was also through Professor Brower that Frank learned of the NOAA Coastal

Management Fellowship program.

Placed with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Office of Coastal Resource Management to work on a project entitled "Stormwater Management System Inspection Program," Frank has been tasked with a number of duties. He spent the first few months of the fellowship reviewing historical data on previously issued stormwater permits. His next step was to conduct a baseline assessment of stormwater permit compliance. In order to

accomplish this assessment, he has spent a great deal of time in the field inspecting sites. To date, he has examined approximately 450 permit sites. He has been pleasantly surprised to learn that there are fewer major problems than expected. Only about one-tenth of the sites he inspected have required a compliance letter, and he has found most people to be very cooperative about performing maintenance.

Another of Frank's project responsibilities involves improving the stormwater permitting process and inspection methods. One of the improvements is that responsible parties are now required to complete a stormwater facility maintenance agreement during the permitting process. Frank has also created a demonstration database that tracks all permits, including expanded site and ownership information, and is developing a procedure to ensure that permit files are accessible and accurate. He has also developed an inspection form that will help steer inspectors through the examination of different stormwater facilities.

Frank's final project duty is to prepare a fiscal analysis of the stormwater management system inspection program. This report will detail the resources that will be necessary to fully implement the program.

Although the move has been difficult at times for his "extremely patient" wife, Candace, and their two children, Frank feels that the fellowship has been a great experience. He has enjoyed networking and meeting coastal managers and learning from them. He has also enjoyed the travel and meeting the people of South Carolina. What he has gained most through the fellowship, though, is a great friend and mentor in Joe Fersner. Of this relationship, Frank says, "I think the most important thing I have taken from working with Joe is how much coastal management, probably any type of management actually, is about working with people...Joe has a great gift for finding common ground and reaching quality solutions, even in the difficult circumstances that can occur in a regulatory agency."

Frank's future plans are

uncertain, but he says he would like to stay in South Carolina. Perhaps one day, he may even realize his life-long dream of owning a bait shop and hamburger grill somewhere down by the marsh." ♦



NOAA Coastal Services Center
LINKING PEOPLE, INFORMATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

Upcoming Center Training*

Jan 2003

29–30: Introduction to ArcGIS 8.2

Feb 2003

24–25: Introduction to ArcView GIS 3.3
26–27: Intermediate ArcView GIS 3.3
28: Introduction to GPS

Mar 2003

5–6: Remote Sensing for Spatial Analysts
24–25: Introduction to ArcGIS 8.2

For registration and additional information about these and other training opportunities offered by the Center, please visit our training Web site at www.csc.noaa.gov/training/.

*Training classes are limited to project partners and NOAA line offices.

FOCUS ON FELLOWSHIP PARTNERS: NATIONAL SEA GRANT PROGRAM

The NOAA Coastal Services Center partners with several organizations that contribute to and help make the Coastal Management Fellowship a success. In this ***Focus on Fellowship Partners***, we turn the spotlight on the National Sea Grant College program. Sea Grant encourages the wise stewardship of United States marine resources through research, education, outreach and technology transfer. Sea Grant is a partnership between the nation's universities and NOAA that began in 1966, when Congress passed the National Sea Grant College Program Act. Headquartered at many of the nation's premier universities, 30 state Sea Grant programs are located in coastal and Great Lake states, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. This wide-spread scope, combined with Sea Grant's expertise in administering successful fellowship programs of their own, made them a natural choice as a partner in the NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship program.

Sea Grant's role in the Coastal Management Fellowship cannot be understated. Each year, from November through April, they are involved in a myriad of activities. Drawing from their university network, they distribute information to appropriate departments to recruit students. They accept applications and interview eligible candidates. They also write letters of endorsement for up to three candidates and send their nomination packages to the NOAA Coastal Services Center. Representatives from Sea Grant, along with other fellowship partners, participate in fellow and state project selection panels in October and March of each year. Every three years, the Coastal Services Center convenes a fellowship review panel to review and offer recommendations on all aspects of the fellowship program. Representatives from the national office, as well as a state Sea Grant director, always participate on this panel. In the review conducted in September 2002, Bob Malouf, director

of the Oregon Sea Grant, and Kola Garber, manager of the Knauss Fellows Program, were present to offer their perspectives and feedback. Sea Grant's assistance and support of the Coastal Management Fellowship help make it, in the words of a former fellow "a great opportunity to develop professional skills [and] to further educational and career development." ♦

FOCUS ON THE PACIFIC ISLANDS ASSISTANTS

The NOAA Coastal Services Center's Pacific Islands Technical Assistantship is a two-year program that matches recent recipients of master's, doctoral, and professional degrees with hosts from the four Pacific Island coastal zone management (CZM) programs: Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The first class of assistants is working on integrating technology tools, such as geographic information systems (GIS), into the Pacific Island

coastal programs. Below is a summary of the projects in which the four current assistants are participating.

Rebecca Pollock has been placed with the **Hawaii Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program** to help the coastal resource management community apply GIS to the state's resource issues and the projects addressing them. To accomplish these goals, Becky determined training needs for the program and its partners and is now coordinating GIS, remote sensing, and metadata training. She creates training materials and organizes GIS outreach activities and is working with the Hawaii Statewide GIS Program to develop and acquire GIS and remote sensing data and to develop mapping products. Becky is also working to facilitate information exchange and coordination of projects between the Hawaii CZM program and federal, state, and local partners by participating in various GIS user and coastal resource groups.

Becky is currently co-leading a project that involves synthesizing physical, biological, historic, and cultural data, information, and GIS-

based tools for sustainable watershed-level resource management of the Waianae coast of Oahu. The outcome of this characterization will be a CD-ROM and Web-based product accessible for resource managers, educators, researchers, and the public to examine impacts of land-use decisions on coral reefs and the nearshore environment.

Ken Cochran, currently with the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' (CNMI) Coastal Resources Management (CRM) program**, is working with the GIS manager to identify and implement appropriate GIS-related projects for the program.

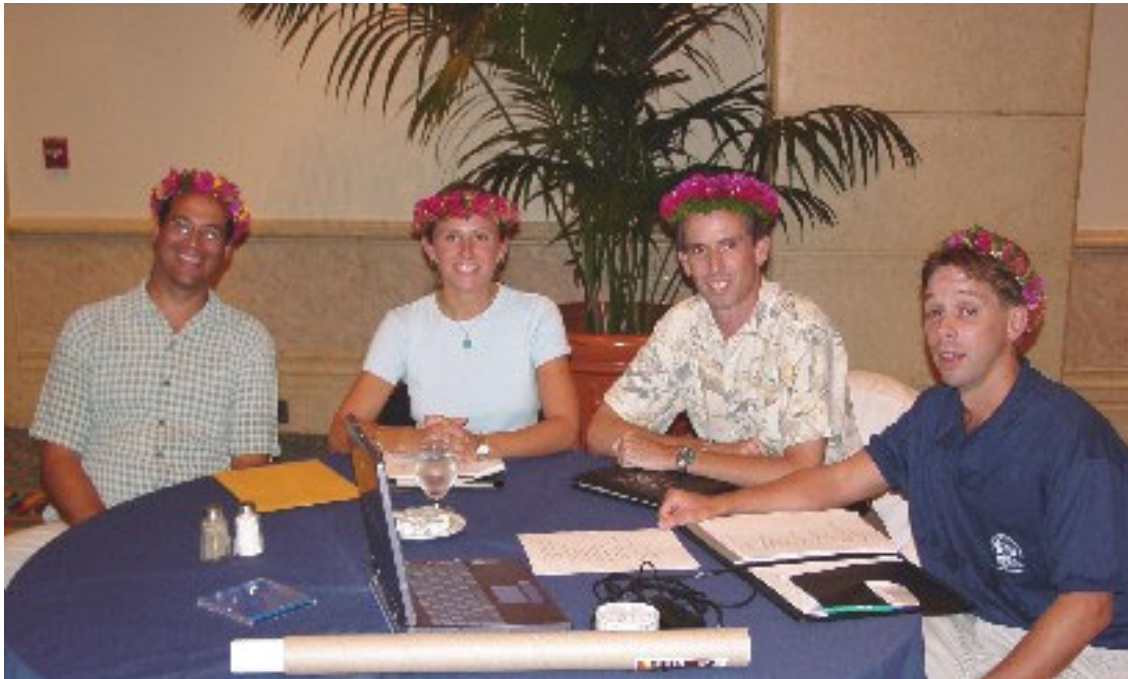
Ken is providing support to CRM's efforts to increase coral reef protection. He is assisting in the identification of non-point source pollution and mapping elements contributing to the pollution and is working with the GIS manager and a marine biologist to develop benthic habitat maps. He is also linking the current permit system with digital cadastral maps in a GIS.

In addition, Ken is providing training in GIS, GPS, and remote sensing

to staff and supporting outreach by helping to establish activities for a local GIS Day, working with local schools and colleges to incorporate GIS technology into their curriculum, and creating a Web page with ArcView shape files available within the CRM.

James Byrne, placed with the **Guam Coastal Management Program (GCMP)**, is working with coastal managers to implement GIS applications into their decision-making processes. Much of his work involves coral reefs, and his primary project involves benthic mapping of coral habitats. He is working with experts from local agencies, CNMI agencies, and the University of Guam Marine Lab to develop a benthic habitat classification scheme.

James is incorporating coral reef reports and studies into a GIS. He is developing a GIS-based watershed application for the improved management of the impacts of the watersheds on the coral reefs. Working with the Army Corps of Engineers and other Guam agencies, James is identifying areas that are susceptible to shore



Ken Cochrane, Becky Pollock, James Byrne, and Kevin Conk (from left to right) take a break at the All Islands Regional Meeting held in Guam in June 2002.

erosion. Finally, he is developing a GIS application for Guam's marine protected areas. All of these components will be housed on the GCMP Web site.

Placed with the **American Samoa Coastal Zone Management Program** (ASCMP), **Kevin Cronk** has been involved in a number of activities, including providing GIS support for planning and development and environmental projects.

Kevin is developing a functional land information system which will integrate a spatial component to

existing data about land-use activities into the permit renewal and notification system. He is also providing aid to government planning efforts by developing updated base-map layers using high-resolution satellite imagery.

Also involved in several environmental projects, Kevin is working to improve existing stream data by adding attribute information such as names, unique identification numbers, and historical biological data.

Furthermore, he is involved in a project initiated by the American Samoa

Environmental Protection Agency to develop and implement a stream-monitoring plan on the main island of Tutuila.

In addition to these projects, Kevin is creating a GIS Web site for American Samoa, implementing metadata requirements, providing GIS training to staff, and working with the American Samoa Community College to promote the use of GIS to solve local problems. ♦

For more information on the Pacific Islands Assistantship program, please visit www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/fellows/pacific-island.html.

FOCUS ON THE FELLOWSHIP: STATE PROJECTS CHOSEN FOR 2003

Five exciting new projects have been selected for the 2003 to 2005 Coastal Management Fellowship term. The California Coastal Commission, whose project was selected last year but deferred, will also be eligible for fellow placement this year. Below is a summary of each of the six projects for the upcoming year. Recruiting efforts are well underway, but we need your help to spread the word to eligible applicants. Remember, applications should be submitted to area Sea Grant directors and are due no later than January 31, 2003.

California Coastal Commission; San Francisco, California

Project Goal: Develop a database that catalogs coastal erosion rates for areas of the California coast and create a pilot GIS-based erosion prediction tool based on these data.

Fellow Responsibilities: 1) Develop a set of criteria for evaluating coastal erosion rate data, 2) develop a set of geologic parameters that may be correlated with

coastal erosion, 3) develop a GIS database, 4) identify, inventory, and compile existing geologic, coastal erosion, and coastal armoring data, and 5) conduct two to four training seminars on use of database as an erosion prediction tool.

Delaware Coastal Management Program Delaware Division of Air & Waste Management; Dover, Delaware

Project Goal: Increase the rate and acreage of brownfield restoration and reuse in Delaware's coastal communities, thereby reducing development pressures and associated coastal impacts in undeveloped areas.

Fellow Responsibilities: 1) Preliminary information assessment and implementation plan development, 2) inventory of brownfield sites in coastal area, 3) site prioritization, 4) synthesis of brownfield information into draft document, and 5) product finalization and release.

Maine Coastal Program; West Boothbay Harbor, Maine

Project Goal: Create a regional marine geographic information system (GIS) and bay area management approach for the state of Maine.

Fellow Responsibilities: 1) Develop a prototype regional marine GIS using existing data, 2) make recommendations and create a plan for the acquisition of new data layers, 3) apply analysis of a regional GIS to inform a series of real-life management issues, and 4) investigate, evaluate, and make recommendations for managing the bay area.

Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program; Two Harbors, Minnesota

Project Goal: Develop a permit monitoring and compliance system to collect data for evaluation and better decision making to ensure the proper protection of resources.

Fellow Responsibilities: 1) Develop a comprehensive permit monitoring and compliance system, 2) evaluate the effectiveness of permitting programs, 3) develop decision-making tools that integrate existing

programs, 4) improve consistency of decision-making and permit compliance, and 5) evaluate trends based upon review of the cumulative and secondary impacts.

***New York Division of Coastal Resources;
Albany, New York***

Project Goal: Implement state coastal zone management policies and New York's nonpoint source management program with regard to the restoration of water quality and habitat values and the protection of water quality in coastal streams.

Fellow Responsibilities: 1) Develop a document that

establishes a statewide protocol and provides guidance to restoration practitioners, local government officials, and agency staff, 2) establish a framework for a GIS-linked database of riparian restoration projects that will serve as a reference for all restoration stakeholders statewide, and 3) participate in riparian restoration workgroups.

***Washington Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program;
Olympia, Washington***

Project Goal: Develop a shoreline assessment curriculum for integrating scientific information into

the next generation of shoreline management plans.

Fellow Responsibilities: 1) Review, with program, staff, background information on Washington's major coastal issues, 2) research and evaluate existing data sources, ecosystem modeling efforts, and analysis reports, 3) prepare a guidance document for conducting local shoreline assessments, and 4) develop an on-line tutorial that demonstrates how to use available data for shoreline assessments. ♦

Upcoming Conferences & Events

JANUARY

6–9: Coastal GeoTools '03

Location: Charleston, South Carolina
www.csc.noaa.gov/GeoTools/

27–31: Southeast Coastal Ocean Science Conference and Workshop

Location: Charleston, South Carolina
www.csc.noaa.gov/secos/

28–31: Emerging Technologies, Tools, and Techniques to Manage Our Coasts in the 21st Century

Location: Cocoa Beach, Florida
www.tech-transfer-conference.com/

Jan 30–Feb 1: 2nd Annual New Partners for Smart Growth

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana
www.outreach.psu.edu/C&I/SmartGrowth/

FEBRUARY

3–6: 5th Annual Southern and Caribbean Regional Meeting

Location: Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina
www.csc.noaa.gov/seocrm

APRIL

13–16: Inaugural National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration

Location: Baltimore, Maryland
www.estuaries.org/

For more information on upcoming events, visit
www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/conferences.html



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